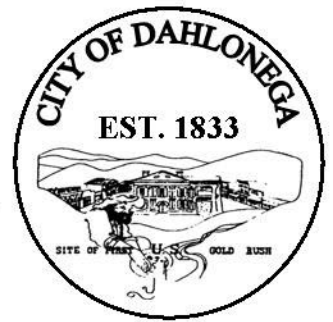


# City Limits

News from the Government Offices of Dahlonega, Georgia

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December 2008



## Old Fashioned Christmas Wrap-Up

Old Fashioned Christmas 2008 was a month-long package of sights, sounds and memorable

experiences for visitors and local residents, alike. It was a community effort as always, led by Old Fashioned Christmas committee chair, Angelia Wilson. Thanks to this dedicated group of community committee members for organizing and producing this annual affair. Thank you to Amicalola EMC, the City of Dahlonega and Gayle Jones for putting the lights up (and taking them down). Without the many sponsors, who donated money, time and resources to support Old Fashioned Christmas, this wonderful event could not have happened. Also, thank you to the countless volunteers who worked with this committee on everything from decorating the square to pulling off a great parade to planning creative events throughout December. The result was a wonderful atmosphere for family enjoyment and shopping. Visitorship seemed to hold its own, despite the weak economy, and local shoppers, by many accounts, made "all the difference" this year.



## Park Shelter Available Soon

The last nail had barely been pounded in to complete the City of Dahlonega's brand new shelter at Hancock Park

when the calls started coming in. Can I hold my wedding there? Can I reserve the shelter for a birthday party? The city was glad to see the interest in renting the new facility, one of the functions it was designed to accommodate. User policies and rates are being established, and rental applications with all the details will soon be available. Hancock Park's new shelter is the home of the First Friday concert series and various other city produced events.

## Water Treatment Plant Update

On Schedule. On Budget. That's what the Dahlonega City Council and city manager Bill Lewis wanted to hear when project manager Ben Williams of Jones, Jordan & Goulding gave his monthly progress report on the water treatment plant in December. And that's exactly what they *did* hear. While foundation work continues, the structural steel and "skin," or siding materials, have been delivered to the site and above ground progress should be evident in April. In the meantime, attention has turned to specifying the electronic controls and alarms for what will be one of the most modern plants—and one of only a few that are computer operated—in Georgia. As far as the distribution portions of the project go, a utility bridge across Yahoola Creek just upstream from the reservoir is essentially completed, with only a few finishing touches to go. That bridge suspends four different pipes across the creek where they can be easily inspected and maintained.



## Hosting Heart & Soul Tour

When the Heart & Soul of Georgia bus rolls into Dahlonega on April 16, it will be carrying more than casual observers. Its passengers will include some 50 business leaders, state legislators, grantmaking professionals, philanthropists and others. The Georgia Cities Foundation, which organizes these tours each year, will be working to impress upon participants the importance of successful downtown



development and its role in supporting economic development efforts for regions and communities. The dozen or so cities on the tour are chosen on the basis of their success in creating strong, vibrant communities through downtown development efforts. Visitors will see what has worked in these cities, as well as opportunities for assistance. While most cities on the statewide tour only have the guests for a couple of hours, Dahlonega was chosen as an overnight destination. Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority director Joel Cordle will take advantage of the opportunity to treat the guests to dinner and present the city's master plan.



## 2009 Pin-Up a Work of Art

She's everything you'd look for in a model. Fresh and attractive. Unforgettable appeal. That's why Dahlonega is the pin-up for the Georgia Department of

Agriculture's 2009 calendar. The large wall calendar is a work of art, featuring an antique wooden vegetable wagon overflowing with basketsful of brightly colored vegetables. This mouthwatering image of plenty is set against the backdrop of storefronts along the historic Public Square's north side. A representative in agriculture commissioner Tommy Irvin's office said the calendar has drawn an unusual number of positive comments. To order a calendar by mail, send a check or money order for \$7.50 (includes shipping) to Georgia Department of Agriculture, 19 Martin Luther King Jr., Dr., Room 324, Atlanta, GA 30334. Need more information? Call 404-656-3680.

## Appalachian Jam Planning Begins

The Bear on the Square Committee has committed to provide financial, production and marketing assistance to bring back the popular Appalachian Jam this April. Additional sponsors and financial contributions are still needed. Please call Joel Cordle at 706-864-6133 before February 1.



## City of Dahlonega . . . continued from reverse side

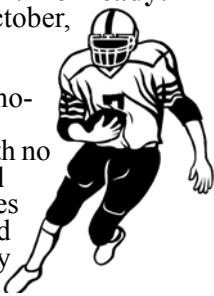
### Game Plan: Be Ready!

Back in October, the City of Dahlonega adopted a no-frills 2009 budget, with no new capital expenditures planned and contingency plans built in to allow for changing economic conditions. That's the defensive part of the city's game plan. Now, with talk of federal stimulus money possibly becoming available, the city wants to be in a good offensive position, too. Any such stimulus monies would likely go to projects that are ready to start immediately. To be considered for any federal money that may become available, city manager Bill Lewis says the city is looking at its infrastructure needs, such as roads, bridges and water and sewer projects. Next, they will evaluate whether any budgeted monies should be redirected to move some of these projects up to eligible "ready to start" status. "We want to be in a position to take advantage of any funds that might become available," Bill says.

### Sale of Hillcrest

It didn't take long to open the sealed bids for the

Hillcrest home the city once intended to repurpose as a new city hall building. Only a single bid came in. The bid was made by Freddy Welch and Chris Welch, owners of the Smith House.—for just \$1 over the minimum bid terms. The city cleared about \$30,000, or 8 percent, on its investment. The Welches bought a property that reportedly had appraised for \$750,000 for just two-thirds of that value. And the historic property



### Trees, Trees, If You Please

When Lumpkin County received 350 5-gallon container-sized trees last spring through an Apachee Foundation grant with the help of the Yahoola Creek Trails Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, there were enough trees to share with the City of Dahlonega. Dahlonega received 34 trees in all, planting them in the parking lot areas at the reservoir, at Hancock Park, at the city park on Riley Road and at City Hall. The new trees helped the city meet requirements necessary to be recertified as a National Arbor Day Foundation "Tree City." Dahlonega intern Rebecca Shirley is in the process of applying for that recertification now. To qualify, the city updated its tree ordinance, incorporating a list of preferred trees, and had an inventory and condition assessment of some 800 city trees completed. This last feat was accomplished by the volunteer Lumpkin County Master Gardeners organization.



### New Inspector Plugged In

Dahlonega has a new code enforcement officer and building inspector, but he's no stranger to the city. Tim Martin took on his new role with the city in September after working in Dahlonega's Public Works Department since 2005. Tim makes sure soil erosion guidelines are followed when ground is broken. He inspects homes throughout the building process and works with builders to make sure the rules and regulations of the International Building Codes are followed. Tim holds a Georgia Association of Code Enforcement certificate, and he is certified with the State of Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division. Tim is well suited to this position, says city manager Bill Lewis, because he's able to be aggressive in enforcing the regulations while always having a professional attitude and being fair and consistent.



### Walking the Walk

You hear a lot from the City of Dahlonega about making the downtown and central business districts more pedestrian friendly. New, highly visible signs at busy pedestrian crosswalks are evidence of progress. Seven of the signs have been installed. A new crosswalk was added on South Chestatee Street across from North Georgia College & State University's new parking deck last month. And elevated crosswalks continue to be a topic of discussion at City Hall and at shops downtown. When it comes down to where the shoe hits the pavement, there may not be one single, easy answer to slowing down vehicles, reducing truck traffic and keeping pedestrians safe. City officials continue to research options to develop a combination of strategies to address this safety issue and look forward to working with new Lumpkin County Sheriff Stacy Jarrard, who has pledged to control speeding in the downtown area.



### How May We Be of Service?



Question? Comment? Problem? Call City Hall at (706) 864-6133. We'll put you in touch with the right person.

### City Council

Gary McCullough, Mayor  
Michael Clemons  
Guy Laboa  
Gerald Lord  
Sam Norton  
Terry Peters  
Ralph Prescott

Bill Lewis, City Manager

### Please join us at our meetings!

Learn about your government by attending public meetings like these. Find the complete schedule at [www.cityofdahlonega.com](http://www.cityofdahlonega.com).

**City Council:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 6pm—City Hall

**Planning/Zoning Commission:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7pm—City Hall

### Historic Preservation

**Commission:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6pm—City Hall

### Dahlonega Downtown Development

**Authority:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 8:30am—City Hall

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